

# **BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING**

## **Minutes**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

### **Welcome and introductions**

Martha Stone, Executive Director from Cross Roads House

### **Watch Me Grow Speaker**

Conor Murphy - AmeriCorps VISTA ([Conor.Murphy@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:Conor.Murphy@dhhs.nh.gov))  
PowerPoint and Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!

### **BHHS Updates**

Melissa Hatfield, BHHS Bureau Administrator spoke briefly about where the department stands regarding the upcoming budget through the Department of Health and Human Services. 5 Step process and the state is about half way there right now. Melissa advised the group that she is unable to discuss the topic of the State Grant-In-Aid process right now. Please direct all questions or inquiries to Ami Carvotta, Contracts Specialist, email address:ami.carvotta@dhhs.nh.gov.

Melissa let the group know that we scored 178.5 out of 200 on the NOFA. We lost a few points in PIC and HIC over a data entry error. We just had a meeting with Melanie and Melanie suggested the BHHS appeal because we scored so highly.

### **Open Group Discussion**

There was discussion with regard to the State Grant-In-Aid. SGIA recipients expressed their concerns about the funding, and discussed their options.

- A reminder to folks that the revised budget needs to be submitted (turned in to the State).
- There was thought of taking a look into advocacy assistance next time around through the process.
- There was a suggestion that the MCOC and the NCOC might want to be a part of it.
- One attendee suggested that each shelter might want to call individually and ask the contract administrator their own questions.
- It was suggested to contact Jonathan Gallo who is Ami Carvotta's supervisor and he can also be contacted with questions such as;
  - What do they do if they(shelters) do not agree with the budget
  - What is the appeal process for that and timeline
  - Explain about the days to an appeal
  - Deadline date for revised budget
  - Did the applicant pool go up?
  - Does the state intend on cutting the budget in this area?

- We should include what the loss is going to look like for each of the shelters if they cut them money, including loss of jobs for staff.
- If more money isn't allotted then numbers are going to show up in areas for the police, fire department, hospitals and welfare offices.
- Studies show that it costs about 15K per person in a rural area to take care of a homeless person outside of being housed in a shelter's care. So that would be very costly.

One question the group had was perhaps there were a lot more applicants this year?

One member mentioned that there was an approximate budget mentioned in the RFP.

It was suggested that the group could go to the media and talk to the people of New Hampshire to make them aware of what is going on and get support through other media contacts too.

Another suggested that some (shelter groups) may want to talk publically about it because they might have to lay-off people and close down services and then what do they do?

Open Group Discussion was made without the participation of the Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services.

### **NOFA Topics**

Kristi Schott attended the NAEH Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness in Texas on February 23 – 24<sup>th</sup>. She attended a workshop presented by HUD.

Kristi reports that the 2016 awards were the earliest released since 2005 and they were released on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. She has not received full details of the award amounts as of yet.

HUD's goals with the NOFA moving forward are: Publish in May, close in August and awards in December.

There was a strong point of streamlining projects and grant consolidations.

Melissa Hatfield had asked Melanie at a meeting the week prior why our grants are not consolidated and Melanie agreed. Melanie is going to look in to whether any of the BHHS grants could be consolidated for ease of process.

Kristi suggested that consolidation would lessen the burden by not having to duplicate your work.

The BHHS has added two more meetings just for NOFA Review Meetings – if needed May 30<sup>th</sup> 9:30am – 12:00pm and June 21<sup>st</sup> – 1:30pm to 4:00pm.

Kristi asked the group to think about their match money and again it is 25%. Kristi shared that we are going to start looking for ranking committee members. You will be seeing changes in how the process will occur this year. BHHS will be creating a match letter template for sub recipients to use. Please begin to think about who your partners are going to be as you need match letters, and MOUs'.

HUD has published final rules on:

- Defining Homeless
- Defining Chronically Homeless
- 2013 VAWA Reauthorization
- Equal Access Rule
- Gender Identity Rule

#### Published Interim Rules

- Emergency Solutions Grant Program with conforming amendments to the Consolidated Plan
- Continuum of Care Program
- Continuum of Care Program Amendments increasing mobility options to individuals and families receiving TBRA

#### Important Upcoming Notices

- Sub-awarding ESG funds to Public Housing Authorities and Local Redevelopment Authorities
- Determining a Program participants rent contribution, occupancy charge, or Utility Reimbursement (CoC Program)
- Notice soliciting further Comment on Interim Rule (CoC Program)

#### Other Topics:

Melissa told the group that she has been talking with TANF folks. There is a “match” item coming out for upcoming TANF eligibility and they are still looking at the language. It is TANF’s funds not the bureau’s.

Cary Gladstone reminded everyone that tax preparations season is still going on. There are still some contacts that are scheduling appointments. [www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com) is sponsored by United Way and H&R Block, MyFreeTaxes has all of the features you/re looking for with none of the fees.

#### **NEXT BOSCOC MEETING** –

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Auditorium  
DHHS Brown Building, 129 Pleasant  
Street, Concord, NH